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**HUB LAW OFFICES** 

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FOR THE COUNTY OF MARIN

5-31-Ex

CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY INTERNATIONAL,)
a California not-for-profit
religious corporation, )

California State Bar No. 107601

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Attorney for Defendant and Cross-Complainant

Plaintiff,

VS.

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Ford Greene

Telephone:

HUB LAW OFFICES

GERALD ARMSTRONG

GERALD ARMSTRONG; MICHAEL WALTON; THE GERALD ARMSTRONG CORPORATION, a California for-profit corporation; DOES 1 through 100, inclusive,

Defendants.

No. 157 680

MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO COMPEL FURTHER RESPONSES TO REQUESTS FOR ADMISSION FROM PLAINTIFF

Date: 6/20/94 Time: 2:30 p.m.

Dept: Referee Benz Trial Date: 9/29/94

#### I. INTRODUCTION

Code of Civil Procedure section 2033 (1) states in part "If the party requesting admissions, on receipt of a response to the requests, deems that (1) an answer to a particular request is evasive or incomplete, or (2) an objection to a particular request is without merit or too general, that party may move for an order compelling a further response." For the purposes of the instant motion, Scientology, rather than directly responding to the requests at issue, interposed boilerplate objections as follows:

HUB LAW OFFICES Ford Greene, Esquire 711 Sir Francis Drake Blvd. San Anselmo, CA 94960 (415) 258-0360 Plaintiff objects to this request for admission on the grounds that it is (1) irrelevant to the subject matter of the action, (2) interposed solely to harass, oppress and annoy the plaintiff, and (3) vague, ambiguous and unintelligible as phrased.

As will be discussed below, the objections are without merit as well as too general.

### II. STATEMENT OF FACTS

Plaintiff Church of Scientology International (CSI) has sued Gerald Armstrong, The Gerald Armstrong Corporation, and Michael Walton for allegedly fraudulently conveying a house and cash in order to defeat CSI's ability to collect damages for the alleged breaches of a settlement contract with Armstrong.

Thus, CSI's claim is necessarily predicated upon that settlement contract. As matters in defense, Armstrong asserts that his compliance was obtained by duress that was generated by CSI's inalterable adherence to certain policies and practices.

In his answer Armstrong states:

Armstrong denies that the agreement contained carefully negotiated and agreed-upon provisions. Armstrong was not included in one word of the negotiations, which were engineered by CSI through its fair game operations toward and compromise of Armstrong's attorney, Michael Flynn. Armstrong never agreed to the conditions, but did agree with the representations of his attorney that the conditions were unenforceable. CSI intended and used the settlement to continue its litigation war with Armstrong, and to extend its use of litigation to attack its perceived enemies.

[Answer filed 11/30/93, at 2:4-13]

Foremost among said policies is that named <u>fair game</u>. An individual or entity is subject to said policy if he is considered by Scientology as an <u>enemy</u>. In its opinion in <u>Church of Scientology v. Armstrong</u> (1991) 232 Cal.App.3d 1060, the Second District Court of Appeal upheld Judge Breckenridge's decision in

Armstrong's favor 1/ when Scientology first sued him and found:

Commencing in February 1992, the international Church of Scientology issued a series of "suppressive person declares" in effect labeling Armstrong an enemy of the Church ... These "declares" subjected Armstrong to the "Fair Game Doctrine" of the Church, which permits a suppressive person to be "tricked, sued or lied to or destroyed ... [or] deprived of property or injured by any means by any Scientology ....

(<u>Id</u>. 232 Cal.App.3d at 1067)  $\frac{2}{}$ 

In the current litigation, Armstrong's Eleventh Affirmative defense of Duress and Undue Influence states:

Plaintiff is barred from bringing this action against Armstrong because it implemented fair game stratagems on Armstrong, his attorney Michael Flynn, and upon other anti-Scientology litigants and would continue such conduct against all such persons unless all such anti-Scientology litigants, including Mr. Flynn, signed settlement agreement substantially similar to that signed by Armstrong.

[Answer filed 11/30/93, at 13:3-9]

# III. SCIENTOLOGY HAS FAILED TO SUFFICIENTLY RESPOND

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A copy of this decision has been filed herein on October 28, 1993 as Exhibit 1.A in Vol. I of Defendants' Evidence In Support Of Defendants' Motion To Commence Coordination Proceedings (hereinafter "Breckenridge Opinion").

California courts of appeal are no strangers to the harm wreaked by <u>fair game</u>. (see <u>Wollersheim v. Church of Scientology</u> (1989) 212 Cal.App.3d 872, 888 [<u>fair game</u> is the modern equivalent to the Christian inquisitional practice of destroying heretics by stripping him of his economic, political and psychological power]; <u>Allard v. Church of Scientology</u> (1976) 58 Cal.App.3d 439, 444 [former Church member falsely accused by Church of grand theft as part of <u>fair game</u> policy, subjecting him to arrest and imprisonment])

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#### A. The Requests Pertaining To Fair Game

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#### 1. Scientology's Objections

As discussed more fully below, the requests for admission which pertain to <u>fair game</u> are Nos. 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 13. As to each such request, Scientology has interposed the same objection which has been recited above.

As each item is discussed, Armstrong will address the components of objection.

#### Request No. 3 2.

Request No. 3 asks plaintiff to admit that from 1984 through 1986 it or its agents took action to accuse Armstrong's former counsel, Michael Flynn, "with attempting to have cashed a check on an account of L. Ron Hubbard at the Bank of New England."

Part of the fair game action taken by Scientology against Flynn was to publicly attack his reputation by characterizing him as a criminal. (See Separate Statement of Requests and Responses in Dispute) One element of Armstrong's theory of defense is that in consequence of the pressure generated by the fair game activities that Scientology imposed on Flynn, Flynn coerced Armstrong into signing the settlement contract. Based upon Armstrong's affirmative defense, it is clear that this request is relevant to the subject matter of the litigation. (C.C.P. § 2017 Colonial Life & Acc. ins. Co. v. Sup.Ct. (1982) 31 Cal.3d 785, 790; <u>Cembrook v. Superior Court</u> (1961) 56 Cal.2d 423, 429)

Particularly in light of the undisputed relevance of this request, Scientology's objection that the request is intended to

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As noted in Armstrong's separate statement of requests and responses in dispute, he states: "The request is relevant to the subject matter of the action, interposed for legitimate discovery reasons, and very clear. Armstrong contends that Scientology subjected Michael Flynn to a campaign of "Fair Game" which included complex intelligence and Black PR operations, and which resulted, as Scientology intended, in Flynn's desire to get out of Scientology-related litigation, as a defendant, plaintiff, attorney of record or co-counsel at almost any cost. One of the operations Scientology ran against Flynn involved accusing him in legal proceedings, including Armstrong I, and in the international media of participating in, indeed masterminding, the forgery of a \$2,000,000 check on one of Hubbard's bank accounts. Flynn represented Armstrong. To get out from under the fair game attacks and threat Flynn passed on Scientology's duress to Armstrong, acting as Scientology's de facto agent. Flynn told Armstrong that Scientology had ruined his marriage, threatened his family and law practice, and attempted to have him murdered. Armstrong had himself personal knowledge of the organization's illegal policies and practices, and had himself been the target of fair game attacks and threat. Flynn advised Armstrong that he, Flynn, had to get out of the Scientology litigation, including Armstrong's case, and stated that the threats and attacks would continue if Armstrong did not sign the subject settlement If what Armstrong claims was done to Flynn by agreement. Scientology and what Flynn told Armstrong is true, the subject settlement agreement was signed under duress, is invalid, and Scientology's claim of damages owed by Armstrong, on which it bases its claims in this action is invalid. Scientology's years of acts against Flynn, therefore, have undeniable relevance to CSI did not demurrer to or move to strike this action. Armstrong's verified answer herein, which contains defenses based on such acts, thus CSI's objections to this request for admission are unfounded and obstructive. See, e.g., eleventh affirmative defense (Duress and Undue Influence) in Armstrong's verified Moreover, Judge Thomas ruled in his order sustaining answer. CSI's demurrer to Armstrong's first amended cross-complaint that the issues (concerning Armstrong's cause of action for declaratory relief regarding the subject agreement based on duress, etc.) will be determined either in the Los Angeles action or in this action. The subject matter of this request, therefore, is already ordered relevant in CSI's clearly interrelated lawsuits against Armstrong, and to argue that this request should not be answered because it is not relevant in either case, but certainly where there is a September trial date, is not done in good faith. Furthermore, Armstrong has filed a second amended verified cross-complaint which is based on and includes a recitation of Scientology's fair game acts against Flynn."

"harass, oppress and annoy" it is without basis.

Finally, the objection that the request is "vague, ambiguous and unintelligible" is factually without merit. The request is not so ambiguous that Scientology is unable in good faith to frame an intelligent response. (Deyo v. Kilbourne (1979) 84 Cal.App.3d 771, 783; Cembrook, supra. 56 Cal.2d at 429)

### 3. Requests No. 8, 9, 10

Requests No. 8, 9, and 10 respectively ask Scientology to admit that it considered that Flynn was, Armstrong was, and Armstrong is "an enemy of plaintiff."

These requests are obviously relevant to whether or not Flynn and Armstrong were, and are, subjects of the <u>fair game</u> policy.

Armstrong reasserts the above arguments regarding the relevance of this request, in addition to the arguments which address the other objections.

#### 4. Request No. 13

Request No. 13 asks

That the following advice of L. Ron Hubbard is a part of Scientology scripture: "The law can be used very easily to harass, and enough harassment on somebody who is on the thin edge anyway, well knowing that he is not authorized, will generally be sufficient to cause his professional decease. If possible, of course, ruin him utterly."

This is relevant to whether or not the foregoing "scripture" addresses the implementation of the portion of <u>fair game</u> which states that an enemy of Scientology may be "sued . . . or destroyed."

Armstrong reasserts the above arguments regarding the relevance of this request, in addition to the arguments which address the other objections.

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#### 5. Requests No. 6 & 7

Request No. 6 asks Scientology to admit "That the Guardian's Office of Scientology staff used means to deal with people the Guardian's Office perceived as enemies of Scientology that were against the law." 4/

Request No. 7 asks Scientology to admit: "That the Guardian's Office functions were taken over by Sea Organization units, offices or organizations." 5/

Armstrong reasserts the above arguments regarding the relevance of this request, in addition to the arguments which address the other objections.

Certainly some of Scientology's <u>fair game</u> actions have been against the law. (see <u>Wollersheim</u>, <u>supra.</u>; <u>Allard</u>, <u>supra.</u>) The in-house agency that was responsible for such conduct is within the scope of discovery, particularly because such agency may have been, and might be, responsible for <u>fair game</u> activities against Armstrong.

The "Guardian's Office" was a specific organizational unit within Scientology. "The Guardian's Office is charged with the protection of Scientology. The Guardians handle intelligence matters including covert operations to acquire government documents critical of Scientology, internal security within Scientology, and covert operations to discredit and remove from positions of power all persons whom Scientology considers to be its enemies." (United States v. Heldt (D.C. Cir. 1981) 668 F.2d 1238, 1247)

In 1992, the United States Tax Court held that Scientology's corporate structure was a "deceptis visus" and that control was exerted through the Sea Organization. "Real control is exercised less formally, but more tangibly, through an unincorporated association, the Sea Organization, more commonly referred to as the Sea Org." (Church of Spiritual Technology v. United States (1992) 26 Cl.Ct. 713, 718, affirmed 991 F.2d 812)

# B. The Request Pertaining To The Flynn Non-Representation Contract

Request No. 11 asked Scientology to admit "That plaintiff entered into a contract with Michael Flynn which prohibited him from representing any parties, including Armstrong, in future litigation against plaintiff or any other Scientology-related organizations, entities or individuals."

This request is relevant to Armstrong's Eleventh Affirmative Defense, quoted in full above in the section discussing the relevance of the <u>fair game</u> policy to this litigation.

It is also relevant to Armstrong's Thirty-Sixth Affirmative
Defense of Conflict of Interest which asserts:

Plaintiff is barred from bringing this action against Armstrong because defendant Armstrong's former attorney Michael Flynn, in conjunction with settling Armstrong's case against Scientology-related entities, also settled 30 other cases, including cases of his own against Scientology-related entities without procuring outside counsel for Armstrong.

[Answer filed 11/30/93, at 20:25-21:2]

Moreover, whether or not Scientology entered into a contract with Flynn whereby Flynn agreed never to represent Armstrong in future litigation against Scientology is relevant to Armstrong's defense that Flynn advised him that the salient provisions of the settlement contract were not enforceable. [Answer filed 11/30/93, at 3:8-11, 7:20-21, 20:11-17]

# C. The Request Pertaining To Armstrong's Alleged Breaches

Request No. 12 asks Scientology to admit "That no enmity was ever generated by Armstrong at any time in plaintiff or plaintiff's members." A central justification for Scientology's lawsuit is that Armstrong engaged in such activity [Complaint

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filed 7/23/93 at 2:4-19] which allegation he has denied. Therefore, it relates to a matter that is in controversy between the parties and is relevant. (C.C.P. § 2033 (a))

Request No. 21 asks Scientology to admit "That Armstrong did not begin in February 1990 to breach the settlement agreement." Since it is such alleged breaches, if any, upon which Scientology rests its claim on which the instant lawsuit rests, the relevance of this request is central.

Armstrong reasserts the above arguments regarding the relevance of this request, in addition to the arguments which address the other objections.

## D. The Request Pertaining To Scientology's Alleged Damages

Request No. 23 asked that Scientology admit "That plaintiff has not been damaged in any way or manner whatsoever by any alleged breaches of the Settlement Agreement by Armstrong at any time."

Whether or not Scientology has been damaged by what it alleges to have been Armstrong's breaches is obviously central to the case. If Scientology has not been damaged, there will not be any basis for its claim that Armstrong fraudulently conveyed his assets in order to make himself judgment-proof so that he could breach the settlement contract and suffer no penalty therefrom.

As to this response, Armstrong again reasserts the above arguments regarding the relevance of this request, in addition to the arguments which address the other objections.

### IV. MONETARY SANCTIONS SHOULD BE IMPOSED

Code of Civil Procedure section 2033 (1) states that the Court shall impose a monetary sanction under Code of Civil

procedure section 2023 against any party and attorney who opposes a motion to compel a further response unless it finds that the one subject to the sanction acted with substantial justification or that other circumstances make its imposition unjust.

Based upon the foregoing discussion, it is clear that the only possibly valid objection was that which was based upon relevance. As to each of the relevance objections, however, they were interposed with no justification inasmuch as each request dealt directly with the issues framed by the complaint and answer in this litigation.

#### V. CONCLUSION

Based upon the foregoing arguments, defendant Gerald
Armstrong respectfully submits that the motion to compel further
responses should be granted and monetary sanctions imposed.

DATED: May 31, 1994

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Cross-Complainant GERALD ARMSTRONG

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